

**Minutes**  
**February 16, 2007 Arts Commission Meeting**  
**The Evergreen State College - Olympia, Washington**

**Commissioners Present**

Jean Mandenberg, Chair  
Leann Johnson, First Vice Chair  
Steve Sneed, Second Vice Chair  
Kent Carlson  
Charlene Curtiss  
Maureen Greeley  
Cindy Hill Finnie  
Kate Jones  
Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles  
Silvia Lazo  
Cheryl Leo-Gwin  
Mary Ann McCurdy  
Ben Moore  
Joan Penney  
Rosita Romero  
Shauna Woods

**Staff Present**

Kris Tucker, Executive Director  
Kristine Bartruff  
Bitsy Bidwell  
Mark Gerth  
Patricia Hopper  
Janae Huber  
Lisa Jaret  
Lou MacMillan  
Saya Moriyasu  
Willie Smyth  
Alice Taylor  
Mayumi Tsutakawa

**Commissioners Absent**

Monte Bridges  
Chris Bruce  
Rep. Lynn Kessler  
Bill McKay  
Lanie McMullin

**Guests**

Laura Grabhorn, TESC Longhouse  
Dale Erquiaga, Consensus LLC  
Gretchen Johnston, WA State Arts Alliance  
Ben Rosas, TESC Arts Council  
Lee Lyttle, TESC  
Anne Friedman, TESC  
Peggy Weiss, Jacob Lawrence Project  
Jens Lund, WA State Parks

## Call To Order

Chair Mandeberg called the meeting to order on February 16, 2007 at 8:42 a.m. at the Longhouse at The Evergreen State College (TESC).

## Welcome

Laura Grabhorn, assistant director of the Longhouse, welcomed the group. She said the Longhouse opened in 1995, and is the first public longhouse on a US college campus. It represents the cultures of Native Americans in our state and provides a gathering spot for people of all cultures to meet. She explained some of the building's artwork, and provided a publication, *Cultural Luminaries*, which catalogs the work of a recent artist-in-residence program at TESC.

## Approve Agenda

Mandeberg asked for any changes or additions to the published agenda. Greeley said Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, WSAC's new legislative member, would be joining the meeting in the afternoon and suggested that the discussion of the 2007 Legislative Session be moved to 1:30 p.m., and the Accessibility Committee and Budget Reports be presented at 9:30 a.m. It was moved by Penney and seconded by Woods that the agenda be modified as suggested; approved unanimously.

## Chair's Report

Mandeberg began self-introductions by all present, and said she would like her report to regularly include an opportunity for a Commissioner to share interesting work they are doing in support of the arts. Commissioner Lazo told of a project, *Children of Darfur*, a touring exhibition of drawings of children from refugee camps, and a weekend of lectures, dance and music. She provided a handout, *Ethical Fashion*, from a magazine from Brazil.

Mandeberg referred to pages 3-6 in the packet, with information about ways Commissioners can play a role in their communities. Besides the priority of advocacy, Commissioners can serve on various panels and committees. Mandeberg will form a Deaccession Committee and a Nominating Committee soon.

Moore asked for clarification about policy on accepting free tickets to an event presented by a potential grant applicant. Tucker said there is an opportunity to declare a conflict of interest when serving on a grant panel. The WAC allows free tickets only for evaluation purposes, unlikely to be expected of Commissioners. We need to be sensitive to even the appearance of a conflict of interest.

## Director's Report

Tucker referred to pages 7-10 in the packet, and encouraged Commissioners to add the hole-punched packet to the Toolkit ring binder. She thanked those who came to the previous night's poetry reading; approximately forty people attended. It was a great event, and Batdorf and Bronson coffeehouse provided their staff and refreshments. Tucker thanked Commissioners Mandeberg and Greeley for the idea; there is already talk of a poetry reading for Arts Day 2008. She also thanked Mark Gerth for the tech support.

Tucker referred to her recent visit with Jim Haseltine, the first director of the Arts Commission, who was hired in 1967 and served as director until 1980. WSAC's public art program was established in 1974 when former governor Dan Evans was working on the design of the east capitol campus and asked Haseltine for public art there.

Haseltine wanted to use the opportunity to establish a percent for art program for all public buildings, suggesting 2%. Dan Evans countered with 1%, legislation was introduced and in the last three minutes of debate a legislator cut it to ½%. Haseltine also donated to WSAC records of public arts programs around the world, slides of artwork around the world, and the State of the Union address given by President Eisenhower in 1955 stating that we needed a federal policy and a federal agency for the arts. The NEA was established ten years later. WSAC's fiftieth anniversary is in 2011, so this is a good time for us to think about the kind of legacy we want to build.

Tucker said that in just one year strategic planning resumes; it is done every two years. The last round of planning did not include broad constituent input or work the state as a whole; more comprehensive planning may be done in the next round. Today's conversation about international, separate from our strategic planning process, gives us an opportunity to think big, and then think strategically about what the steps would be.

Tucker referred to page 8 and recapped the status of consideration of a cultural taxing district and 4Culture's pursuit of a change in the hotel/motel tax rules in this session through the bill to provide public funding for the Sonics' arena. The Prosperity Partnership proposal to establish a cultural taxing district to support the arts will not go before the 2007 legislature. The proposal will be fine-tuned over the next six months and probably go before the 2008 or 2009 legislature to establish the taxing district, and then the residents in the district would have to approve it also. Tucker said she continues to explore the potential impact of a cultural taxing district and what role WSAC might play. She may consider convening some kind of symposium or forum with a small discussion group, and possibly also commissioning some research about similar efforts in Colorado where such a taxing district has been in place for about 20 years, and then possibly a subsequent conversation based on that research. She observed that dedicated funding for the arts in a four-county region would have a dramatic effect on WSAC and on the ecology and economy of the arts in the larger region.

Tucker invited questions. Commissioner Moore commented that if the Prosperity Partnership becomes a reality it should be viewed as an opportunity for this agency to reform itself, because the landscape will change; WSAC then can dedicate its energies in a different way that has a more meaningful impact, and without spreading resources quite so thinly across the landscape. Moore said Tucker's initiative on this seems very well timed in terms of the strategic planning process that will begin presently, for that process to be informed by experiences elsewhere in similar situations will strengthen our position.

Mandeberg said she and Commissioner Woods met with Senator Karen Fraser on Arts Day. The Senator had several questions and comments about how grants fuel the arts in the entire state. She said over and over again, "Our view is statewide. How are we doing with that?" Mandeberg said she likes the idea of re-thinking what our role might be as a state arts commission, and not sitting on the sidelines but fully participating. She asked Commissioners to think about how all can participate in the process.

Tucker noted that Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles from Seattle was appointed to the Arts Commission this week in the Senate Democrat seat formerly held by Senator Thibau-deau.

## **Approve Consent Agenda**

Mandeberg referred to the three elements of the consent agenda: Minutes of November 2006 WSAC Meeting - p. 11-21, Professional Development Assistance Program Grants - p. 22, and Project Support Program Grants - Round #2 of FY2007 - p. 23-29. Brief discussion noted the need to differentiate between individuals with the same last name (referring to Victor Moore and Ben Moore in the November director's report), verified there is no restriction for using PDAP funds for international versus national, and summarized criteria for eligibility for Project Support (PSP) grants. In the last round, some applicants provided as a work sample a collage of scenes from different plays or dances, with one piece of music recorded over the entire collection. This denies reviewers an opportunity to see the integrity of the individual artistic moment, and that was the reason for some rejected applications. A commissioner asked how that would be communicated to future applicants. Tsutakawa said the guidelines specifically describe the work samples. When asked if Challenge America funding is described to applicants, she said staff decides what proportion of Challenge vs state funds will be applied to a particular grant.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the entire consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Leo-Gwin and unanimously approved.

## **Accessibility**

Bidwell showed a powerpoint presentation of visual arts by Washington artists with disabilities from VSAarts juried exhibitions. Commissioner Curtiss referred to two handouts -- a request from the Accessibility Advisory Team to meet with the Commissioners when they convene in May, and the Accessibility Committee Report, which addresses the Access Plan for 2007 and communicating with grantees about accessibility issues. Bitsy Bidwell described a conference call meeting with WSAC's four Cooperative Partners, which is reported in the Committee Report handout. Commissioner Curtiss said her term on WSAC will end after the May meeting; the Accessibility Committee consists of Commissioners Kessler, McCurdy, herself and staff Bitsy Bidwell. She encouraged interested Commissioners to consider filling the vacancy. She challenged everyone to try getting to the next meeting in a wheelchair.

## **Approve Budget Reports**

Lou MacMillan presented the budget reports. In the FY 2007 Financial Report for the second quarter, American Masterpieces (NEA funds) now has its own budget line rather than being included in Program Services. The funds budgeted for Grant Appeals have not been used, and will now become available for PDAP.

MacMillan introduced the memo on page 58, which identified a positive balance of \$514,456 in General Fund-State at closing FY06, discovered during final closing process in November. Analysis determined that those were funds that had been brought in by the agency in previous years to cover AIPP (Art in Public Places) expenditures. Because it became general fund money, in accordance with state law, 50% of these funds went to Savings Incentive Fund; the other 50% went to OSPI (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.) The WSAC Interim Committee reviewed the issue in January, and recommends Commission approval of the revised FY06 closing balance. Staff is working with OFM (Office of Financial Management) to determine related impacts, change ac-

counting practices, and implement a better tracking program. MacMillan described the process for expenditures and billings for AIPP projects, which often span multiple years.

In the ensuing discussion, several points were clarified:

- State accounting systems don't provide complete detail for tracking disbursements
- WSAC has no reserve account that would allow carrying funds over from year to year
- Public art funds can only be used for public art

Finnie suggested reporting public art expenses and revenues separately. Carlson suggested a briefing on government fund accounting.

The 2005-2007 Biennial Budget (p. 59-61) is self-explanatory.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the FY 2007 Financial Report (through 12/31/06), the amended FY06 closing balance, and the 2005-2007 Biennial Budget. The motion was seconded by Greeley and unanimously approved.

### **Discuss Potential Role/s Internationally**

Kris Tucker reviewed the history of WSAC's interest in international programs, which began about four years ago: In 2003 WESTAF provided an analysis of current practices among state arts agencies nationwide. Tucker led a delegation of Commissioners, artists and arts leaders to China in 2004, and WSAC requested funding for international programs from the state legislature in 2005. The request was not successful. In May 2006, a survey of Commissioners by the Nominating Committee showed a clear division about whether international programs should be pursued.

Dale Erquiaga, contractor from Consensus LLC, was introduced to facilitate a discussion. He asked Commissioners to review major themes in the printed background materials on pages 33 - 56 in the packet. He showed a video about international programming in Ohio. He asked Commissioners to explore options and discuss pros and cons. Comments were recorded on flip charts. The goal was to leave knowing what to pursue and what to drop to narrow the scope. He will submit a report summarizing the discussion.

### **Arts Participation Initiative report**

Mayumi Tsutakawa referred to page 79 in the packet, and distributed the new API booklet, *Building Strong Communities through the Arts*, the result of five years of work beginning with Wallace grants to 13 states. It documents the success stories of fifteen organizations in underserved (ethnic, low-income, rural and disabled) communities around the state. The overriding characteristics of the program are multi-year funding, training for capacity building, and documentation and evaluation of results.

Commissioner Sneed reported on a conference he attended in Chicago in November with other Wallace grantees. It emphasized participation by conference attendees, being divided into groups for their own arts experiences. His group was tasked with writing and performing a play dealing with a hypothetical problem for an arts organization. There was also a strong focus on arts education, with presentations from Texas and New York about programs that will now be followed for their work and impact.

Tsutakawa said WSAC is involved in a national planning effort for the 11<sup>th</sup> biennial conference of The Association of American Cultures (TAAC). She handed out postcards

announcing the event in Denver July 12-15, 2007 and said the theme will be international and global issues. Speakers from Europe and Mexico will be featured.

Upcoming deadlines in the Grants to Organizations Program are April 2 for Project Support and April 22 for Organizational Support. The latter is for operating support for mid-sized (above \$79,000 annual income) organizations, and awards are made only every two years. The field is highly competitive and represents the artistic richness of our entire state. The grant guidelines are posted on the WSAC website. The Project Support grants will be for activities taking place July 1 through December 31, 2007.

### **2007 Legislative Session**

Mark Gerth referred to a handout from Arts Day, a 'thank you sheet' listing bills of interest to WSAC, and pages 31-32 in the packet. He reported that the Poet Laureate bill passed the House 90 yea, 5 nay, and will now move forward in the Senate. He tracks all bills that mention the Arts Commission, and participates in weekly legislative liaison meetings. Two recent new bills (HB2192 and SB 6065) call for use of WA lottery funds for arts education programs, to be administered by WSAC and OSPI beginning in 2012. SSB 5534, sponsored by Senator Kohl-Welles, provides small performing arts organizations an exemption from unemployment compensation when paying certain workers a stipend. The progress of arts-related bills is monitored closely. There was general discussion regarding various bills.

Commissioners recapped Arts Day, February 15, noting the increased participation by Commissioners, the value of advocacy and the interviews with legislators before the session, and ways to effectively communicate with legislators. Gretchen Johnston, Washington State Arts Alliance, said there were about 150 present for Arts Day. The Cultural Congress will be April 23-25 in Leavenworth; Arts Advocacy Awards (one for local community and one for wider-reaching work) will be given at the WSAA annual meeting on June 27.

### **Folk Arts in the Parks**

Jens Lund, Program Manager, referred to his report on pages 62-65 in the packet, and showed video highlights of the second season of Folk Arts in the Parks (2006). Nearly 3000 people attended the 18 events held last year. The goals are to increase the diversity of park visitors and to celebrate cultures. The program is supported by NEA grants, State Parks, WSAC, Smithsonian, and others.

### **Art in Public Places**

Janae Huber, Collections Manager for the State art collection, referred to the brochure in the packets about the current exhibition of works by Jacob Lawrence. The series of 22 screen prints depict the "Legend of John Brown" and are part of the Washington State art collection, which numbers over 4500 pieces acquired over its 30+ year history. The exhibition is funded by the NEA's American Masterpieces Initiative.

Peggy Weiss, contracted coordinator of the Jacob Lawrence Exhibition, explained that the prints will be shown at Columbia Basin College in Pasco, and Clark College in Vancouver. At both venues there is a public programming component involving other activities such as lectures and dramatizations. There is also information and images of the prints on the WSAC website.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.